Archean ("Early life") Phanerozoic (Phaneros = "evident"; zoic = "life") "Ancient") "Early life") Paleozoic Mesozoic	Cretaceous Jurassic Triassic	Recent, or Holocene	of Dinosaurs Age of Mammals	Modern man Extinction of large mammals and birds Large carnivores Whales and apes Early primates Mass extinctions	Cascade volcanoes Worldwide glaciation Uplift of Sierra Nevada Linking of N. & S. America Basin-and-Range Extension Laramide orogeny ends (West)
Proterozoic (Phaneros (*Early life") Paleozoic (Phaneros (*Early life")	Jurassic Triassic	Eocene	inosaurs	Mass extinctions	Laramide orogeny ends (West)
Proterozoic (Phaneros (*Early life") Paleozoic (Phaneros (*Early life")	Jurassic Triassic	144-	inosaurs		
Proterozoic ("Early life") Paleozoic M	Triassic 2		1.≝	Mass extinctions Represental mammals Second Early flowering plants	Laramide orogeny (West) Sevier orogeny (West)
Protenzoic ("Early life") Paleozoic	2		First dinosaurs	Nevadan orogeny (West) Elko orogeny (West)	
Protenzoic ("Early life") Paleozoic		45		First dinosaurs	Breakup of Pangea begins Sonoma orogeny (West)
Proterozoic ("Early life")			Amphibians	Mass extinctions Coal-forming forests diminish	Supercontinent Pangea intact Ouachita orogeny (South) Alleghenian (Applachian) orogeny (East)
Proterozoic ("Early life")	Pennsylvanian 320-		७	Coal-forming swamps Sharks abundant Yariety of insects	Ancestral Rocky Mts. (West)
	Mississippian 360		র্থ First amphibians First reptiles	Antler orogeny (West)	
	Devonian 408-		seus	Mass extinctions First forests (evergreens)	Acadian orogeny (East-NE)
	Silurian 438		ΙŒ	First land plants	
	Ordovician			Mass extinctions First primitive fish Trilobite maximum Rise of corals	Taconic orogeny (NE)
	Cambrian 570			Mass extinctions First primitive fish Trilobite maximum Rise of corals Early shelled organisms	Avalonian orogeny (NE)
			Marin		Extensive oceans cover most of N. America
				1st multicelled organisms	Formation of early supercontinent
rchean ncient")	2500- Precambrian			Jellyfish fossil (670 Ma)	First iron deposits Abundant carbonate rocks
ব্ৰু				Early bacteria & algae	Oldeet Imaum Faith value
Hadean Beneath the Earth")		~ 3800-		Origin of life?	Oldest known Earth rocks (~ 3.96 billion years ago) Oldest moon rocks (4-4.6 billion years ago)
("Ber		600	_	ormation of the Earth	Earth's crust being formed

Figure 2: Geologic time scale. Red lines indicate major unconformities between eras. Absolute ages shown are in millions in years. Scale is from the U.S.G.S.